

Remarks

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-13, 15, 17-19 and 24-43 are pending in the subject application. After entry of the above amendments to the claims, claims 29-36 have been canceled and claims 28 and 37 have been amended. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejection of the claims in view of the above amendments and remarks as set forth hereinbelow.

I. The drawings stand objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a). This objection is respectfully traversed.

Please find enclosed a letter requesting approval of drawing corrections in response thereto. Further, the specification has been amended above to describe the additional Figure. No new matter has been added.

II. Claims 28 and 38-43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Connan (U.S. Patent No. 5,775,386) in view of Hauser et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,551,486). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 28 has been amended to include the limitation of allowable claim 36 and intervening claims 29-35, thus, obviating a response to this rejection. Further, claims 38-43 now depend from the allowable claim.

III. Claims 29-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Connan (U.S. Patent No. 5,775,386) as applied to claim 28 above, and further in view of Tsutsumi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,473,989). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 29-35 have been canceled, thus obviating a response to this rejection.

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IV. Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-13, 15, 17 and 24-27 are allowed, and claims 36 and 37 are allowable.

Applicant acknowledges that claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-13, 15, 17 and 24-27 are allowed, and that claims 36 and 37 are allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that the claims are in condition for allowance and allowance is respectfully requested.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 11-1243.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 11-1243.

Respectfully submitted,

LAW OFFICES OF WILLIAM L. KLIMA, P.C.



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Date: June 28, 2002

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"Version with markings to show changes made."

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows.

Page 7, please amend the first paragraph.

Figures [5a-5d] 5a-5e schematically show various arrangements of an apparatus for filling one or more cartridges having multiple compartments.

Page 9, amend the second paragraph.

Figures [5(a)-5(d)] 5(a)-5(e) schematically show an apparatus for filling multiple compartment cartridges in accordance with the present invention. In Figure 5(a), a reservoir R provides a supply of the fluid used to fill the cartridges. Two metering pumps P1, P2 are connected to the reservoir R. Two filling tubes T1, T2 are connected to the two metering pumps P1, P2, respectively. Each filling tube T1, T2 simultaneously fills one of the two-compartments 24a, 24b in the compartment cartridge 10' with the fluid.

Page 10, after paragraph 3 (line 16), enter the new paragraph:

--Figure 5(e) shows an embodiment of the invention for simultaneously filling two-compartments 24a and 24b from a single pump P1 supplied by reservoir R.--

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In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Please cancel claims 29-36 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

28. (amended) An apparatus for filling a container having at least two compartments for storing a fluid, comprising:

at least one reservoir for containing fluid;

at least one metering pump connected to said at least one reservoir;

at least two filling tubes connected to said at least one metering pump for at least partially filling said container; and

a holder aligned and fixed from rotation relative to said two filling tubes, said holder [being] configured for aligning said container relative to said two filling tubes, said holder configured to be translated relative to said two filling tubes and moved on a conveyor, said holder is a puck provided with at least one surface for aligning said puck relative to said conveyor, said puck is provided with a pair of parallel alignment surfaces for contacting with a pair of alignment rails provided on either side of said conveyor, said puck is configured for aligning the container relative to said puck, and at least one surface on said puck is configured to engage with a surface on the container for aligning the container within said puck.

37. (amended) An apparatus according [36] to claim 28, wherein said alignment pin is eccentrically disposed relative to a center position of the container, and the container is provided with an eccentrically disposed hole for engaging with said alignment pin for aligning the container within said puck.

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CARTRIDGE FILLING AND SEALING APPARATUS

Inventors: William L. KLIMA et al.

Application No. 09/094,505

Fig. 5(c)

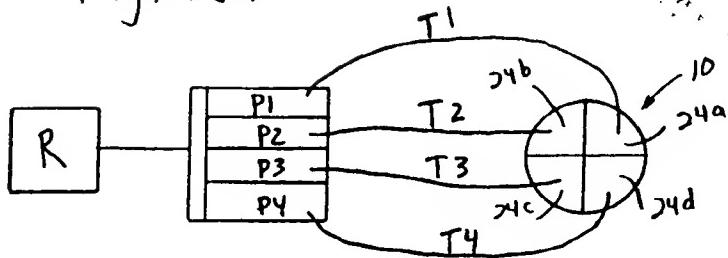


Fig. 5(d)

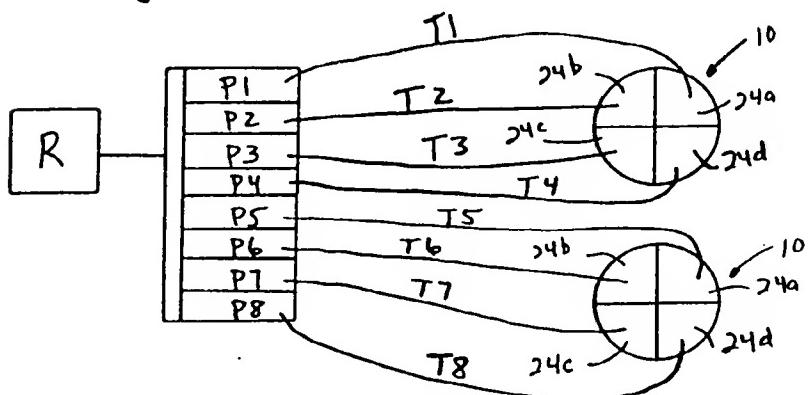


Fig. 5(e)

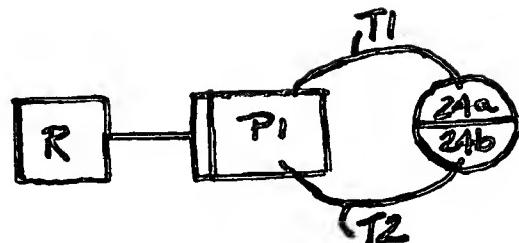


Fig. 6(a)

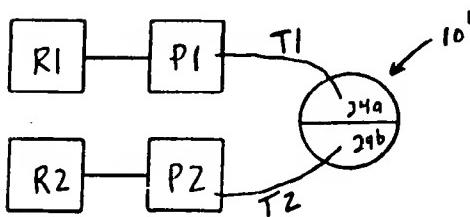


Fig. 6(c)

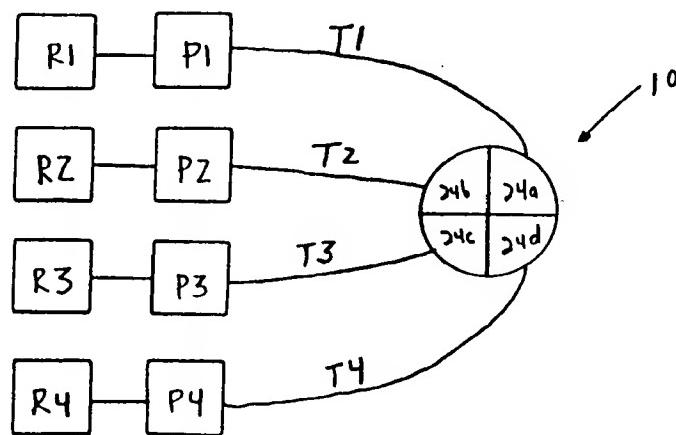


Fig. 6(b)

